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The Thirty-nine Steps

By JOHN BUCHAN

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(Continued.)

"And what better chance could you ask?" I cried. "Man, I've often thought that an innkeeper would make the best story teller in the world."

"Not now," he said eagerly. "Maybe in the old days when you had pilgrims and ballad makers and highwaymen and mail coaches on the road, but not now. Nothing comes here but motorcars full of fat women, who stop for lunch, and a fisherman or two in the spring and the shooting tenants in August. There is not much material to be got out of that. I want to see life, to travel the world and write things like Kipling and Conrad. But the most I've done yet is to get some verses printed in Chambers' Journal."

I looked at the inn, standing golden in the sunset against wine red hills.

"I've knocked a bit about the world, and I wouldn't despise such a hermitage," I said. "D'you think that adventure is found only in the tropics or among gentry in red shirts? Maybe you're rubbing shoulders with it at this moment."

"That's what Kipling says," he said. "My eyes lightening, and he quoted some verse about 'romance bringing up the nine-fifteen.'"

"Here's a true tale for you then," I cried, "and a month hence you can make a novel out of it."

Sitting on the bridge in the soft May gloaming I pitched him a lovely yarn. It was true in essentials, too, though I altered the minor details. I made out that I was a mining magnate from Kimberley who had had a lot of trouble with I. D. B.* and had shown up a gang.

"This refers to the illicit diamond buyers of South Africa," explained Dr. George Frederick Kums in an address before the National Geographic Society (1903). "The diamond mining companies of South Africa have unusual power under the laws of the colony so that no one is permitted to buy or sell diamonds unless authorized rough diamond buyers. Any one in whose possession uncut stones are found is brought to immediate punishment, and the penalty is unusually severe for innocent or guilty buyers or sellers. The detective system is remarkable. People in all walks of life belong to this special force. Had it not been for the importance of the diamond mines under Cecil Rhodes and his stringent laws, it would have been impossible to mine diamonds with profit."

They had pursued me across the ocean and had killed my best friend and were now on my track.

I told the story well, though I say it who should not.

I pictured a flight across the Kalahari to German Africa, the crackling of machine guns, the crashing of planes.

"There's two chaps below looking for you," he whispered. "They're in the dining room having whiskies and sodas. They asked about you and said they had hoped to meet you here. Oh! And they described you jolly well, down to your boots and shirt. I told them you had been here last night and had gone off on a motorcycle this morning, and one of the chaps swore like a navy." I made him tell me what they looked like.

One was a dark-eyed, thin fellow with bushy eyebrows, the other was always smiling and lisped in his talk. Neither was any kind of foreigner.

I took a bit of paper and wrote these words in German as if they were part of a letter:

"Black Stone. Scudder had got on to this, but he could not act on a flight. I doubt if I can do any good now, especially as Karolides is uncertain about his plans. But Mr. T. will advise I will do the best I can."

I manufactured it rather neatly, so that it looked like a loose page of a private letter.

"Take this down and say it was found in my bedroom, and ask them to return it to me if they overtake me."

Three minutes later I heard the car begin to move, and peeping from behind the curtain, caught sight of the two figures. They were slim, the other was sleek. That was the most I could make of my reconnaissance.

The innkeeper appeared in great excitement. "Your paper woke them up," he said gleefully. "The dark fellow went as white as death and cursed like blazes, and the fat one whistled and looked ugly. They paid for their drinks with half a sovereign and would not wait for change."

"Now I'll tell you what I want you to do," I said. "Get on your motor and run off to Newton Stewart to the chief constable. Describe the two men, and say you suspect them of having had something to do with the London murder. You can invent reasons. The two will come back, never fear. Not tonight, for they'll follow me forty miles along the road, but first thing tomorrow morning. Tell the police to be here bright and early."

CHAPTER V.

The Radical Candidate's Adventure.

HE set off like a docile child, while I worked at Scudder's notes. When he came back we dined, and in common decency I had to let him pump me. I gave him a lot of stuff about lion hunts and the Matabele war, thinking all the while what time business these were compared to this I was now engaged in. When he went to bed I sat up and snatched Scudder.

I smoked in a chair till daylight, for I couldn't sleep.

About 8 next morning I witnessed the arrival of two constables and a



"The dark fellow went as white as death and cursed like blazes."

sergeant. They put their car in a coach house under the innkeeper's instructions and entered the house. Twenty minutes later I saw from my window a second car come across the plateau from the opposite direction.

It did not come up to the inn, but stopped 200 yards off in the shelter of a patch of wood. I noticed that its occupants carefully reversed it before leaving it. A minute or two later I heard their steps on the gravel outside the window.

My plan had been to lie hid in my bedroom and see what happened. I had a notion that if I could bring the police and my other more dangerous pursuers together something might work out of it to my advantage. But now I had a better idea.

I scribbled a line of thanks to my host, opened the window and dropped quietly into a gooseberry bush.

Unobserved I crossed the side of the road, crawled down the high road on the far side of the patch of trees. There stood the car, very spick and span in the morning sunlight, but with the dust on her which told of a long journey. I started her, jumped into the chauffeur's seat and stole gently out on to the plateau.

Almost at once the road dipped so that I lost sight of the inn, but the wind seemed to bring me the sound of angry voices.

You may picture me driving that forty horsepower car for all she was worth over the crisp moor roads on that shining May morning, glancing back at first over my shoulder and looking anxiously to the next turning, then driving with a vague eye, just wide enough awake to keep on the highway.

For I was thinking desperately of what I had found in Scudder's notebook.

The little man had told me a pack of lies. All his yarns about the Balkans and the foreign office conference were eye-wash and so was Karolides. And yet not quite, as you shall hear.

I had staked everything on my belief in his story and had been let down. Here was his book telling me a different tale, and instead of being once bit, twice shy, I believed it absolutely. Why? I don't know.

It rang desperately true, and the first yarn if you understand me, had been in a queer way true also in spirit. The 15th day of June was going to be a day of destiny, a bigger destiny than the killing of a man. It was so big that I didn't blame Scudder for keeping me out of the game and wanting to play a lone hand.

That, I was pretty clear, was his intention.

He had told me something which sounded big enough, but the real thing was so immortally big that he, the man who had found it out, wanted it all for himself. I didn't blame him. It was risks, after all, that he was chiefly greedy about.

The whole story was in the notes, with gaps you understand, which he would have filled up from his memory. He stuck down his authorities, too, and had an odd trick of giving them all a numerical value and then striking a balance, which stood for the reliability of each stage in the yarn. The three names he had printed were authorities, and there was a man, Duncanson, who got five out of a possible nine, and another fellow, Ammerfoort, who got three.

The bare bones of the tale were all that was in the book—these and one queer phrase which occurred half a dozen times inside brackets. "Thirty-nine steps" was the phrase, and at its last time of use it ran, "Thirty-nine steps I counted them; high tide 10:17 p. m."

I could make nothing of that. The first thing I learned was that it was no question of preventing a war.

That was coming as sure as Christmas; had been arranged, said Scudder, ever since February, 1912. Karolides was going to be the occasion.

He was booked all right and was going to hand in his checks on June 15, two weeks and four days from that May-morning. I gathered from Scudder's notes that nothing on earth could prevent that. His talk of Eplrote guards that would skin their own grandmothers was all nonsense.

(To Be Continued.)

THE PRETTIEST FACE and the most beautiful hands are often disguised by an unsightly wart. It can easily be removed in a few days without pain by using CYRUS WART REMOVER. For sale only at the CYRUS PHARMACY, 415 Fairfield Ave.

FRANK POLKE & SON, EMBALMERS & UNDERTAKERS, 181-197 Stratford Ave. Phone 1590-3. Branch Office, 409 Hancock Ave. Phone 389.

Wm. Lieberum & Son, Embalmers and Undertakers, Office and Residence, 531 MAIN STREET, Telephone Connection.

ROURKE & BOUCHER, Undertakers and Embalmers, 1295 MAIN STREET, Tel. 1661. Calls Answered Day or Night.

JOHN F. GALLAGHER, MARGARET L. GALLAGHER, Undertakers and Embalmers, Margaret L. Gallagher, only licensed graduate woman embalmer and undertaker in the city capable of taking entire charge of funerals. Mortuary parlors, office and residence, 371 FAIRFIELD AV. Phone 1390.

TODAY'S WANTS

ANNUAL SUPPER and entertainment given by St. Anthony's Parish at their hall, Colorado avenue, Thursday evening, June 22nd. Supper served from 5 to 8 p. m. R 29 d*

WANTED POSITION on farm, 4 hours a day. Apply Jos. Mudraff, 586 East Main street. R 24 d*

WANTED—Bookkeeper with stenographer experience for store. References required. State salary. P. O. Box 278, City. R 24 d*p

REMOVAL—My real estate and insurance office is now located at 173 Golden Hill St. T. B. Warren, new Tel. 2417. R 5 *tf

Foot Specialist

DR. MANSFIELD, the foot specialist, 1107 Main street over Dillon's. Ref. was injured in the Milford wreck will resume practice first week of June. D 18 d*

SIDEWALKS

TAR AND CEMENT SIDEWALKS and roofing, blue stone and cement curbs, sand and gravel. Estimates cheerfully given. Thomas Broderick contractor. Phone 7133, 1305 North Ave. R 18 u*

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WE WILL COVER and furnish all material for 5 piece parlor suit, guarantee all workmanship as first class, ten patterns to select from for \$12 to \$15. Scully Bros., 405 State street. P 6 *tf

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SALES—New and second hand; office and house sizes. Walter E. Marsh, 192 Fairfield Ave. A 27 *tf

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EXPERIENCED AND THOROUGHLY CAPABLE INQUIRE, S. J. W. CARE FARMER

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HAWLEY & WILMOT, Undertakers and Embalmers, No. 168 State St., Bridgeport, Ct. All calls, day or night, answered from office. George B. Hawley, 113 Washington Terrace; Edward H. Wilmot, 865 Clinton Ave.

M. J. GANNON FUNERAL DIRECTOR A N D E M B A L M E R 1051 Broad St., near John Phone 3493 Residence, 297 Vine St. Phone 1259

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JOHN F. GALLAGHER, MARGARET L. GALLAGHER, Undertakers and Embalmers, Margaret L. Gallagher, only licensed graduate woman embalmer and undertaker in the city capable of taking entire charge of funerals. Mortuary parlors, office and residence, 371 FAIRFIELD AV. Phone 1390.

FRANK POLKE & SON, EMBALMERS & UNDERTAKERS, 181-197 Stratford Ave. Phone 1590-3. Branch Office, 409 Hancock Ave. Phone 389.

SCHOOL

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL, 836 Fairfield Ave. College preparatory, technical and professional schools, civil service, Hotchkiss Hill, etc. Elementary and advanced subjects—personal work with every student. Enrollment now the best preparation for summer examinations or next year's work. R 6 b*

Female Help Wanted

STRIPPERS AND SIDE STEEL OPERATORS—Warner Bros. Co., Employment Office. R 23 d*

YOUNG WOMAN wanted to do type-writing and other office work three hours each day; compensation three dollars per week. Address P. O. Box 524. R 27 s*p

Help Wanted Male

WANTED—Strong boy for store work. Eagle Tea Co., 337 Fairfield Ave. R 27 s*

WANTED—Girl for general housework. Apply 131 Vine St. Phone 8066. R 11 *tf

For Sale.

LOBSTER POTS for sale cheap. 151 Seabright Ave., Black Rock. R 29 s*p

FOR SALE—Upright piano, in good condition. If in the market, notify Piano, this office. R 29 s*

FOR SALE—Two family house near Atlantic street, all improvements, 4 rooms each floor, 2 in attic. Address P. O. 342. R 29 s*p

FOR SALE—Restaurant, good locality, and good reason for selling. Call 1338-13. R 18 a*ip

FOR SALE—New cottage, terms reasonable. Call evenings or Sundays. 474 Fairfield Ave. R 5 *tf

FOR SALE—Nine room house in West End, on easy payments. Address House, Care Farmer. U 27 *tf

FOR SALE—One large safe, practically new, bargain, see P. Anderson, 206 Fairfield Ave. U 17 *

2 FAMILY HOUSE, good neighborhood, price \$4,800; \$1,000 cash. W. B. Loller, 196 Fairfield Ave. R 27 s*

VERY GOOD 3 family house, all improvements, rentals \$660; price \$6,200; \$1,600 cash required. 136 Fairfield Ave. R 27 s*

57 ACRE FARM within seven miles of Bridgeport, large house and barns, also spring house brook on place. Price \$4,800; part cash. 196 Fairfield Ave. R 27 s*

FOR SALE—5 passenger car, good condition, ready to run, suitable for a jitney. Cheap for cash. Address W. W. F., Care Farmer. B 17 t*

FOR SALE—At a bargain: 7 room cottage with bath, water and tubs on shore front, Silver Sands. Telephone 4580, Bridgeport. R 25 d*p

BIG BARGAIN FOR QUICK BUYER.—\$3,500 cash buys a business block, with all improvements in a desirable location. Has an income of \$1,500 per year. Will sell for \$1,500; \$8,000 to remain on mortgage. If interested, call, write or phone L. Weiss, 1438 Main street. Tel. 2743-3. R 26 a*ip

GREATEST BARGAIN in the city in Real Estate. \$3,000 cash buys 20 room fireproof brick apartment house with all modern improvements. Has 6 baths and is located in very desirable section. Can be used as small hotel or for separate apartments. Price very reasonable. If bought within a few days, the owner will be pleased to accept. Write or call, L. Weiss, 1438 Main St., Phone 2743-3. U 21 a*ip

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We want the name of every person everywhere who is suffering from rheumatism, so we can send him a free sample bottle of Hill's Rheumatic Remedy. We don't care how long or how few cases that have not yielded and been thoroughly cured with it. It works at once. In twenty-four hours it stops the pain. Don't take our word for it—test it at our expense. This is not a new untried thing. For twenty-five years it has been regarded by physicians as practically the only certain treatment for this terrible disease.

Over 10,000 Testimonials Like These: Mr. E. M. Ehlers, Secty. Grand Lodge of Masons of New York City, writes that, "Although a sufferer from rheumatism for many years (20) does not stop all pain and one bottle cured me."

Mr. A. Goldman, Victoria, Texas, says: "I am very well pleased with your medicine; am recommending it very highly. It has done more for me than anything I have ever tried."

Marshall F. W. Goraty, of 70 Manhattan St., New York, says: "I have suffered with rheumatism for many years, have tried almost every known remedy but got no relief or cure until I took yours. In forty-eight hours I was entirely cured and free from all pain. I send this unsolicited."

Hill's Rheumatic Remedy is on sale at most drug stores at \$1.00 per bottle. One bottle generally effects a complete cure. Call or send for free sample bottle and booklet at once. There is no greater service you can perform for humanity than to tell any rheumatic sufferer about this wonderful preparation. Address: Hill Medicine Co., 117 East 84th St., New York, N. Y.

GOOD MEN WANTED EVERYWHERE. Good Men Make \$10 a Day on Our Preparations. WRITE NOW.—Ad

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AMBULANCES—Invalid cars and limousines. Charges reasonable. James T. Bourke, 1295 Main street. Phone 1661. D 7 d*

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AUTOMOBILE OWNERS ATTENTION: We can save you money on your automobile, fire and liability insurance. Give us a chance to figure before you insure elsewhere. Zalmon Goodsell & Co., No. 1094 Main street. Phone No. 21. S 2 s*

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THE MODERN and scientific methods employed in my practice such as electric light rays, neurophary, chiropractic, massage, hygiene, etc. in accord with nature and will improve and restore your health. Dr. Adolf O. Steinfeldt, Douglas practitioner. Security Building. Tel. 6788; consultation free. B 17 *

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DIAMONDS on credit—Diamonds, watches and solid gold. Exclusive designs. Weekly payments. Will call. Rothblum, 425 State St. downstairs. R 9 *tf

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SCALLY BROS., 105 STATE ST. Largest dealers of second hand furniture in the state. We pay more than others; we have no rent to pay. S 10 a*

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DAMAGE IS ABOUT ALL fire can do to your property. Insurance costing 1-2c a day protects you. All the particulars at D. B. Booth & Co., Conn. Bank Building. S 16 *tf

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WANTED—Inventors to send for one of my booklets on U. S. and Foreign patent. Mercer D. Blondel, Patent Solicitor. Conn. National Bank building. B 27 *tf

A YOUNG MAN of good habits would like a position around some business house. Address W. J. Smith, 116 Wall Street. U 5 d*

Merchants' Exchange

Edwin Smith & Co., dealers in guns, fishing tackle and sporting goods. Keys fitted, locks repaired, saws filed, door checks put on and repaired, talking machines, steel tape and light repairing of all kinds at Smith's Gun Store, 25 Wall St., Tel. 4293-3.

RUBBER STAMPS made by us are reliable, we carry a complete line of stamps, supplies, ink pads, date, rubber type, etc. The Schwerdt Stamp Co., 41 Cannon St. G 16 d*

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GOODYEAR SHOES REPAIRING CO., 76 John St., and 945 East Main street. No connection with other so-called Goodyear Shops. We call and deliver. Tel. 1391. Winfield S. Black, Prop. U 1 *tf

ENGRAVED Wedding Announcements, 100 complete with two sets of envelopes for \$6.50. Southworth's, 10 Arcade. L 13 *tf

Unclassified

NOW IS THE TIME to get your lead, gutters and roofs repaired. Satisfaction guaranteed. P. C. Brown, 1443 North Ave., Bridgeport, Conn. R 4 d*p

WILL THE PARTY who took the bag of money at 10:40 Thursday morning at Dublin's market on Seaview avenue return same immediately and avoid trouble. R 4 s*

AGENTS—Our household specialties are big sellers; labor savers for housewife. Nice profit. Write for free booklet. The Powell Co., Box 144, B.B., Boston, Mass. U 8 s* 6 6 6

HATCHING EGGS FOR SALE—S. C. White Leghorns, \$1.50 for 15. White Plains Poultry Farm, Postoffice Box 105, Trumbull, Conn. U 10 a*ip

WHITE WYANDOTTE EGGS \$2 and \$5 per setting from prize winning stock. Day old chicks 20c. J. J. Lynch, 468 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, Conn. S 4 b*

HATCHING EGGS—S. C. Buff Orpingtons from the world's best strain, Owen Farm stock, \$2.50 per 15; S. C. White Leghorns, Barron strain, \$1.00 per 15. Hollister Heights Poultry Yard, Thompson St., Box 293, Stratford. U 22 b*ip

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STOVES REPAIRED, all kinds supplied, all makes, pipes, grates, brick, etc. Charges reasonable. 1715 Main St. Phone 2349-4. G 3 *tf

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LOUIS F. NUTTING, physical treatments by heat, electricity or manipulation. Rooms 302-310, City Savings Bank, 322 Main street. Office hours: week days 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. R 1 *tf

Positions Wanted

WANTED—Position by refined elderly lady, as housekeeper or companion. Address 59 Ridgewood Place. J 26 d*

WANTED—Position by two men on farm. Experienced and capable. Apply 232 Fairfield, John Lacey. R 25 d*

WANTED—Position on farm with house rent by married man. Address T. Rabideau, General Delivery, City. R 8 s*

WANTED POSITION as violinist, will also take a few violins. Address Daniel Callett, 483 Arctic St., Bridgeport. S 28 d*

WANTED—By man and wife, place as coachman and housekeeper. Call 181 Orland street. R 2 d*

WORK WANTED—Any kind of work by man not afraid of work. 1519 Seaview Ave., 2nd floor. U 17 d*

MUSICIAN—First class experienced violinist, pianist and all around Sileux, Care McConnell, 234 Charles Street, Bridgeport. U 10 a*

YOUNG MAN would like to learn any part of machinist's trade. Salary to start. Address H. Stride, 30 Elm St., City. S 6 d*

POSITION WANTED—Woman about 40 wants position to do general housework, no pastry. N. B. Case of General Delivery, Post Office. U 18 d*

WANTED—Situation as waitress in private family or taking care of aged or convalescent. Tel. 219-2, Milford. U 11 s*

WANTED—Position by English girl as chambermaid, waitress or nurse girl to mother and child. Address A. Hugh, Care of Mrs. Howes, 1368 East Main Street. S 7 d*

HANDY MAN with tools desires a situation, has been a travelling man for years. I. Hawkhurst, 26 Thompson St., Port Trumbull Beach, Milford, Conn. B 28 d*

WANTED—By man of experience position as a hotel manager, night clerk, bartender and all around clerk or caretaker. Billiard or bowling alleys. Strictly temperate. M. J. Margeico, 309 Fairfield Ave. U 1 s*

MARRIED MAN experienced in general farming, desires position of some responsibility doing farm work or market gardening. Address Farmwork, Care of Farmer. R 1 a*

MIDDLE AGED WIDOW wants position as housekeeper for elderly couple, a widow or doctor or with capable, reliable and economical. Wages moderate; references. Mrs. A. Norton, General Delivery, City. R 26 d*

DRIVER—Young married man wishes position as driver on motor trucks and commercial cars. Well acquainted with city. References required. Call Frank Drew, 644 Warren St. B 37 d*

CREDIT MAN 12 years experience wants situation as collector or with Auto Co. Address J. G. Platt, 58 Frank St. B 16 d*

POSITION as blacksmith's helper, experienced in a foreign country on horse shoeing, wagons and all other blacksmith work. Address P. G. Box 32, Fairfield, Ct. B 5 d*

MAN WANTS POSITION.—15 years' experience as painter, paperhanger and wood finisher and wallpaperer also good color mixer. S. Gluck, care Peck, 726 Pembroke street. A 1 s*

YOUNG MAN, 25, wishes a position at anything, hand, around machinery or garage. Alfred J. Conroy, 285 State St., City. A 29 d*

WANTED—Chauffeur wishes position as mechanic and driver, can furnish references. Call or write, 847 Kosuth St., City. Clarence J. Lankenau. A 29 d*

YOUNG GIRL desires position cleaning ladies or gentlemen's apartments mornings. Call 2292-6 after 6 p. m. Irish descent. Address, 392 State street. A 26 d*

SITUATION WANTED.—Coachman, experienced, single man, good on lawns and roads; sober; age 39; Irish descent. Address, 392 State street. A 26 d*